



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

MARCH 2024
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MONTHLY PROGRAM	1
BOARDZ BUZZ	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	3
EDUCATION	4
ELMERS' CORNER	5
MORSE CODE TRAINING	6
ELMERS	7
MARCH MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES	7
2024 RARA WINTERFEST	8
RARA AT THE BSA KLONDIKE	9
SIMPLE ENTRY FOR ANTENNA COAX CABLES	10
STAY IN OUR LANE	12
MARCH 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT	15
FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW	16
MARCH 2024 CALENDAR	17
VE TEAM	18
NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS	19
AMATEUR'S CODE	21
ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION	
PROGRAMS ANNOUNCEMENTS	22
RAGS OF THE PAST	23
RARA OFFICERS	26
AREA CLUB CONTACTS	27

MARCH MEETING: Getting Back to Basics

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

By popular request we are returning to a topic that we haven't addressed in presentations for some time. The topic is getting started in amateur radio. Whether that means just starting out on the hobby, getting back to it after several years, or looking for a new amateur radio project there will be something for everybody.

We will have a set of slides to refer to but we hope the meeting will be more informal than usual so please bring your questions about topics where you would like advice. We will have some experts on various subjects to answer your questions but will be looking for help from the audience so please be prepared to contribute! It should be a lively and fun evening!

You can join us online or in person. If you have been attending our meetings online, consider joining us in person if you are not too far away. Enjoy the coffee and donuts, and especially the camaraderie of other members. The March meeting is on Wednesday March 6th 2024, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3235392566840338014>

Just a reminder, take a look around your radio room. Is there anything you no longer need which you would be happy to give to a new home? If so, please bring it for our 'Free to New Home Table', but please make sure you take items home with you if nobody wants them.



BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE KENNERKNECHT, N2MAK, DIRECTOR

As I write this, it's been a mild winter. While the weather in March can certainly be unpredictable, hopefully spring isn't far away. For portable radio enthusiasts like myself, I'm always excited about the opportunity to be able to operate outside. The Board has been working on some upcoming activities that will encourage you to get out there and get on the air.

Save the date for Sunday, April 21. We're putting together another RARA Academy for Parks on the Air (POTA) at Veterans Memorial Park in Henrietta. We'll have the Roberts Cabin, so rain or shine, it'll be an opportunity for any hams of all experience levels to learn about POTA and portable operations. There will be multiple stations set up to operate with different modes, bands and antennas. We had more than 30 people join us for the first RARA POTA Academy last year and we're looking forward to another successful event.

And for the new-ish hams, RARA will be doing another Hands-On Academy on Saturday, May 4, once again at Black Creek Park in Chili. This event is organized for those that recently received or upgraded their license, as well as those who have had their license but haven't operated in a while. There will be plenty of "stations" where attendees can learn and try out different radios, modes and antennas.

The summer will present some more opportunities as well. We're searching for a new location for the RARA Hamfest in June and of course there will be Field Day too. Then in July, we'll have our annual Summer Picnic.

We also have an opening for International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) coordinator. This event takes place the third full weekend in August, which will be the 17th & 18th (UTC) this year. If you would like to help, please let us know by sending an email to president@rochesterham.org.

Lastly, RARA purchased a Yaesu FT-710 HF transceiver in 2023 which is being made available for club members to borrow. If you haven't seen it yet, it will be out at each of these events. It's a great radio and will help new hams be able to get on the air right away, but it will also allow others to easily do portable radio operations.

I hope you're looking forward to these just as much as I am. Let's get out there and play radio!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY MAR 6, 2024 - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3235392566840338014>

THURSDAY MAR 7, 2024 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Sunday April 21, 2024 - RARA "Parks on the Air (POTA) Academy"
11:00 AM Roberts Cabin in Henrietta's Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday May 4, 2024 - Operating Event for New(ish) Hams
10:00 AM Set up, 11:00 AM Event begins
Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili

Saturday Jun 8, 2024 - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our membership count at the end of our membership year on Sept 30th was 603. We are currently only just past half way in our progress back to that number, and hopefully exceeding it!

Now is the time to renew if you have not already done so and are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already renewed.

If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!

You can join by clicking [here](#) or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Earn Membership Points for contributing/volunteering at Club Events.
- Redeem Membership Points for annual dues and other activities
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Colin Bradley, WA2YUN
Ernest Cooley, KC2NEJ
Konnor Klercke
Kris Lanko, K2RIS
Tim Lincoln, W2TIM
Emilo Moran
Michael Stewart, W1FRX

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!



EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

Our three license classes are at the halfway point and will finish around the time of the March VE testing session. If you missed this round, please let us know that you are interested, and we will put you on the list for the next sessions.

New General Question Pool

Since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition. Even though this book is almost brand new, it already is out of date – the FCC changed the data rate limitations on the HF bands to a bandwidth restriction. In general, you can find the questions in all three question pools that have been withdrawn listed on this page: <http://www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions>.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the

monthly meetings).

OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

If you are new to the hobby, or have been away from it for a few years and don't know how to get back into the groove, or if you just want to learn something new, this event is for you!

Mark your calendars for May 4th 2024. For the fourth time, we have rented the Pathfinder shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili to present different aspects of our hobby to you. We will start the setup at 10am and will be ready for you at 11am, and we will stay until either you run out of questions or we will run out of steam. Based on experience, this is usually around 3pm.

This will also be an in-person edition of our Elmers Corner, so please come prepared with questions that might need some hands-on experience to get answered.

If there is anything specific you would like to learn, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org, and I will try to find somebody to teach that skill.

We would like to get an idea about how many people to expect, so please send an email to the same address with your name and your callsign (if you have one) so that we can plan ahead.

CALL FOR ELMERS FOR OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

Our annual operating event for New(ish) Hams is coming up on May 4th 2024. As in previous years, we've rented the Pathfinder shelter at Black Creek Park in Chili. We are looking for volunteers to teach and present whatever niche in ham radio is keeping them interested and busy. If you are willing to show some new hams the one thing in ham radio they really need to know about, please let us know. We will start setting up at 10am, the actual event starts at 11am and runs until we run out of steam (which is usually around 3 or 4pm). Here are some topic areas I would like to present: CW, HF, VHF/UHF, direction finding, working satellites, building antennas, soldering, APRS, digital modes, and more. If you can come up with something that is not on the list yet, please consider demonstrating that aspect of our hobby. Keep in mind that oftentimes our new hams have not yet been on the air yet, so allowing them to make their first contact at our event is important. I think we all remember how frightening it was the first time we pushed that PTT button or that CW key to actually transmit. Let's help our newest members with that step.

RaRa ACADEMY

We are working on a follow-up to our first RARA Academy about circuit simulation with LTSpice. I will post more information as soon as it is available.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ
Elmers' Corner Coordinators

At our February meeting, we discussed dummy loads. Anything and everything on dummy loads, we covered it all! The recording is loaded on YouTube, and I can send you a link upon request.

Our next meeting is March 2nd, so come and enjoy a lovely Saturday morning talking ham radio with us! I have an exciting QSO to share with you all, but you will only hear about it during our zoom meeting.

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer at our next zoom meeting, please email them to us at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for some Q&A on ham radio, the Zoom meeting is always the first Saturday of the month at 10am. Can't wait to see you there!

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

March 2nd 10AM-12PM

April 6th

May 4th is IN PERSON at the hands on Academy session

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode:786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ

Rich – KD2UBJ

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

LOOKING FOR A NEW BEGINNER'S MORSE CODE ELMER

To all CW Elmers, Pete Fournia, W2SKY, has stepped down as instructor for the Beginner's Morse Code Class. If you would like to take over this class and help folks get started in CW, please get in touch with me, Dave, WA2HOY, or Karl Heinz, K5KHK.

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at:

tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09)

[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

March Meeting Raffle Prizes

- MFJ-270 Surge Protector
- Portable Operating For Amateur Radio (book)
- Powerwerx Precision Watt Meter and Power Analyzer

2024 RARA WINTERFEST

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM

The 2024 Winterfest was held at the Bushman Cabin located at the Veterans Memorial Park in Henrietta. This was a comfortable, centrally located venue that provided respite from a cold windy day! The Winterfest theme was for crockpot dishes brought by various RARA members. There were 25 participants.

On offer were pita bread with home-made hummus, Grandma's minestrone soup, Winterfest Chili with spicy beef, crock pot mac and cheese, buffalo chicken dip, shredded pork and tomato sauce, and Italian-style meatballs and sauce with Italian bread. RARA provided chips and other salty snacks and cookies. There was an interesting pastry item called "Kringle" and cupcakes and homemade cookies. On the drink menu were coffee, iced tea, soft drinks, and water.

RARA members were invited to vote on their favorite dish by placing a ticket near the pot. The winning dish was the minestrone soup provided by Jim Stefano. Jim later shared that his mother instructed him how to prepare some old family recipes. That is probably the secret to his "Big Win."

Following the meal, raffle prizes were awarded by drawing. The first raffle prize was an MFJ shack clock that was won by Brad Robinson. Brad is an aspiring ham. Jim Stefano won a set of rf chokes but "he threw that fish back" because he has a supply. Tim Barrett was the next ticket drawn and took home the chokes.

During the meal setup, Tim Guyot and Joe Delorenzo set up the club's 20-meter end-fed dipole for use with the club FT-710. Scott also set up hf rigs. 20-meter contacts were made with many POTA park-to-park contacts. We were located in K6532.

Fellowship continued until later in the afternoon. It was a successful event



RARa AT THE BSA KLONDIKE

SUZANNE BISHOPP, W2SUZ

RARa members helped with the BSA, Seneca Waterways Klondike again this year. On Friday, the day before the event, Lee-KD2TXB, Peter-W2SKY and Rich-KD2UBJ setup the antennas and tested the stations we would use for the scout demonstration the next day.

On Saturday, George-K4GWA, Peter-W2SKY, Joe-AD2DB, Rich -KD2UBJ, Suzanne-W2SUZ, Jon-N2JAC and Lee-KD2TXB met at Williamson Park to man station #13 and demo and teach scouts of all ages a little bit about ham radio.

There were approximately 90 total scouts in attendance at the Klondike, and approximately 30 scouts came to our station to learn about and play amateur radio.

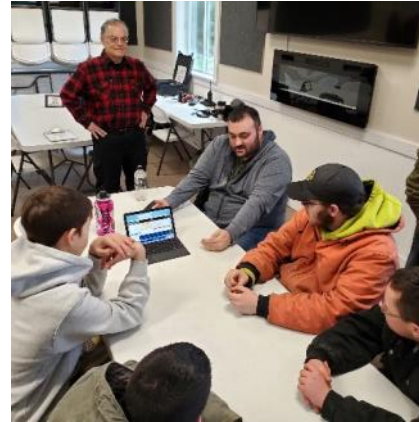


Jon-N2JAC and Joe-AD2DB set up an orienteering/communication skills lab for the scouts. This enabled the scouts to practice transmitting location information to a "home base" which could be a lifesaving skill.

Suzanne-W2SUZ shared some fun activities you can do with your ham radio license. Rich-KD2UBJ explained how to use the HF radio and how it worked with the antennas you could see through the window, and George-K4GWA demonstrated JS8Call.



One of the most exciting demonstrations was the Winklink demo. Peter-W2SKY took pictures of the scouts, and emailed it to them via radio! One of the scouts even replied to his email during the event.



Once again, we would like to thank all that participated and taking time help get the youth of our community excited about ham radio.

SIMPLE ENTRY FOR ANTENNA COAX CABLES

TIM GUYOUT, KB1POP



My coax had been running out a window for several months, preventing the screen from fitting properly, and more importantly as the year drew on, preventing me from closing the window. I wasted a lot of time debating the “best” solution and as a result spent months with no solution.

Criteria:

Weather protection for coax entry
Weather protection for lightening arrestors
Low dependence on sealant (caulking or tape)

Ideally, one would have a weather tight box with a copper ground plane that conceals a penetration in the house such as this sample from KF7P Metal-Werks.



However, I don't need that much capacity and wasn't ready to spend that much money at the moment. You'll see that the design I went with allows me to upgrade to a model like this in the future.

I was going to start with a plastic box and drill it for conduit fittings, but the cost of the box and fittings added up quickly. On my 3rd visit to the store to plan this out, I noticed that the “box” portion of larger conduit bodies had substantial volume. Type “LB” conduit bodies are laid out so that the fittings were oriented the way I needed. I had an idea.

Here is the worst-case cost breakdown assuming that you have all the tools, but none of the materials needed. You might find you have scraps or substitutes that further reduce the cost.

BOM:

\$15	Conduit Body 2" Type LB
7	2 Feet of 2" PVC
4	2" Conduit Straps
7	Plastic Compatible Paint
10	PVC Cleaner and Cement
6	Screws & Washers (Stainless Optional)
10	Plastic Cutting Board
1	Step Flashing
<u>\$60</u>	Total

The tool list is short.

Tools:

Hole Saw(s)*
Drill & Bits. One long bit is helpful.
Hand saw or chop saw

* I used two different sizes as you'll read below, but you could do a different layout and only need one.

In my case, I chose the location from the outside based on where flashing would best fit in my siding. I then drilled one small hole (~3/8") all the way through to the interior. I drilled the ~2" hole on the inside first to verify there were no obstacles in the wall – drywall is easier to patch than siding. Once I knew I was clear, I used a slightly larger hole saw on the outside so that the coupling on the conduit body would fit. I then slid the piece of flashing in above the hole.

For the PVC lengths, I chose an arbitrary length for the bottom, and the wall-thickness plus one inch for the part that comes into the house. It's not required, but I chamfered the inside edge of the tubing to reduce the chance of damaging the coax jacket. Primed and glued both parts and then wiped down the whole assembly with rubbing alcohol before I put a few coats of the white paint for plastics on.

In order for the conduit body to sit flat, I needed some spacers behind the conduit straps. That's where the cutting board comes in. I cut the top edge at an angle to help deflect water. If you're local to Rochester, I have some cutting board left and will gladly cut you a few pieces until it runs out.

After that, it's just pilot holes and screws for the installation.



I fit my PolyPhasers in and got my radios wired up. I could have used a heavier ground, but I figured a 12GA route to ground was better than nothing.

Once everything was in place, I put the cover on the face, and plugged the bottom with a rag. I kept it nearly flush hoping the shallow opening would be less interesting to wasps or other creatures.

I hope my overthinking (and over-talking here) saves someone some time getting a decent entry set up at minimal cost.

STAY IN YOUR LANE

I GOT MY WIFE INTO HAM RADIO

RICH BISHOPP, KD2UBJ

Many of you may know already that I got involved in HAM radio with preparedness in mind. I had thought about it many years ago but my situation was not right to add time and financial consuming activities. Finally, the day came when both were not so challenging any longer. I was excited to get the technician level license and knew I wanted more but the tech ticket was a great start.

I asked my wife, Suzanne, if she would consider getting her tech license too. I mostly was interested in the two of us being able to legally communicate with each other if and when cell phones were not an option. She was less than enthusiastic about any of it but she agreed to give it try and joined RARA and Karl Heinz Kremer's (K5KHK) Technician class that winter, 2021. I had achieved the General level license just the October before that and Tech in June of the same year. So almost everything was still fresh in my little gray cells.

I recall her first couple classes seemed to go pretty well and she did the homework as assigned. Suzanne has an outstanding work ethic so if she has an assignment, it gets done without question. We would sometimes discuss some of the topics and some I tried to avoid. I would cringe when she started asking me some of the technical questions. I understand just about all of it but not enough to teach it. Suzanne was never into the tech stuff growing up so it was not easy for her. I learned most of the electric and electronic stuff in high school and from my father, he was an electrician. I studied natural science in college but went into public safety as a career. Trying to explain resistance and impedance and how this relates to RF in a wire and in the ether did not go well. Karl Heinz was better suited to do that. I did my best but I could see we were reaching a breaking point at times.

I told Suzanne how it was explained to me - this a license to learn. You don't have to know everything right away. I was able to help Suzanne study some and that helped reinforce what I learned and clearly identify what the little gray cells failed to retain. More than I thought.

So, with one or two tears and three or four glasses of wine, Suzanne worked at it and we studied the technician question pool until I knew she could pass the test. She, was not so sure. I was surprised when she wanted to look at some of the General questions from the book I had used. I nearly fell out of my chair when that happened. I figured yeah, well at least we are not repeating the same questions and answers to each other over and over again.

The day came for the test and I could see Suzanne was nervous. She was fairly confident she would not pass. I was absolutely confident she would. So, in she goes pencils in hand and photo ID in pocket. Cell phone in the car with me. I sat in the car listening to the radio or maybe I was chatting with someone on a repeater I don't recall. I do remember watching for her to come out to where

Karl Heinz and his wife Susan (W2SBA) were standing waiting for each student, from the class he had just taught, to come out with a smile and thumbs up. Well, you know she came out with that smile and before I could finish walking up to where they gathered Suzanne and Susan were jumping up and down screaming. A sight to see.

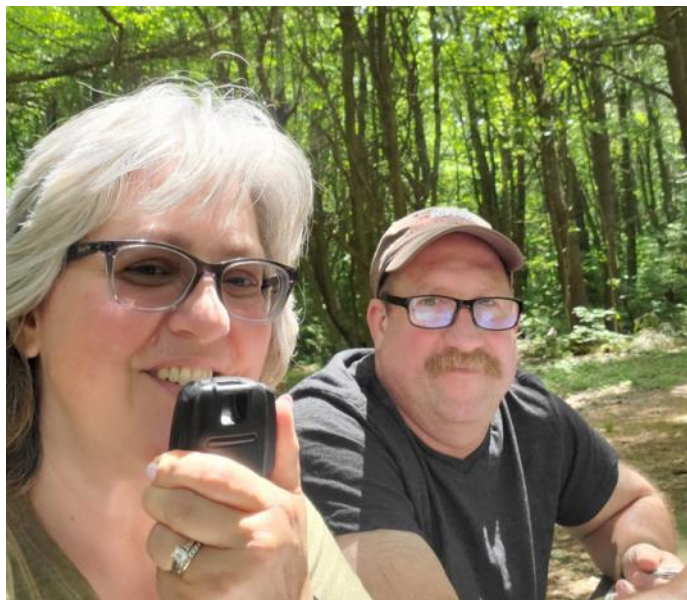
Suzanne had just informed them that she passed the General test as well!! Apparently, she blew the tech test out of the water and they offered her the next one. She told me she had a couple questions to spare for passing on that one too. I knew she would pass the technician test and I was shocked and super proud of her for taking the general test and passing it too. By the way, I did not miss any questions on my tech test and they offered the general to me - which I promptly failed.

Now we had to wait for the FCC to issue her call sign and get on the air. Mic fright was a problem. I have always had a hard time understanding mic fright. Radio and my job go hand in hand so I never had a problem with mic fright. Key fright on the other hand is real! Just saying. Tuesday morning after the test the new licenses were posted. Minutes after printing her license on March 22, 2021 she had her first contact on HF with Bill K4NYM in Florida. We listened for a while and then gave the mic a squeeze with her brand-new call sign KD2VYO. Bill responded immediately with a 57 and FL and Suzanne gave him a 57 and NY and we were off to the races. Later that day she applied for a vanity call sign and got W2SUZ which was much easier and more suited to Suzanne.

Suzanne got through her mic fright by hunting parks on the air. Calling CQ was a challenge too but we worked through that quick enough as well. She actually took the mic away from me because I wasn't calling CQ aggressively enough.

I installed a vhf/uhf radio in Suzanne's car, the same model as in mine, and duplicated the programming so we can go between each other's vehicles and know how the radio is set up and what memory channel to be on. I may have been her second QSO now that I think about it.

I had only ever played radio from home had not gone out to activate a park at all but this looked like something we both would enjoy. So, in April 2021 we added radio gear to our camping pack list. We both love being out in the woods camping and hiking so this is a natural fit. I was also fulfilling my preparedness goals by being able to set up anywhere and make contacts. Generally, our camping has been concentrated to the Adirondacks here in New York. We try different campgrounds each year and do have our favorites which we return to often. Even the campgrounds that prove difficult to operate radio. FYI, Lake Durant State Campground seems to be challenging to get a signal into and out of. Antenna choices really come into play in some of the areas we frequent.



Suzanne and I both enjoy the POTA program since it gets us out there. We have been told we're not doing it right on occasion because we might have a quick rag chew with someone who contacts us and that frustrates the people who are just interested in adding numbers to the log. Oh well. I'm sure they'll get over it.



I have shared this story with some people but many have not heard it. We were camping at Lewey Lake State Campground early in the season, May, I think. The weather had turned cold and rainy so we picked up the station from the picnic table at the back of the camper and set it up inside. A challenge with our little teardrop. I decided to try for some DX stations since we seemed to have good

conditions into Europe that evening. I think Suzanne was reading a book. A station from Bavaria was working though a huge pile up and he was coming in strong. So, I tried for him a few times. Maybe 20 minutes later or more and countless attempts to break through his pile up I handed the mic to Suzanne and said "here you try." Well one or maybe it was two Whiskey Two Sierra Uniform Zulus and the pile up was busted. He told everyone else to stop and be silent and asked for the YL only to come again with her call. So, Suzanne had a nice chat with a gentleman in Bavaria and I sat there listening. After 73s were exchanged Suzanne set the mic down, turned toward me and with a smile gently lifted my lower jaw back up the meet the upper. I never got that guy in my log.

Suzanne always seems to get better signal reports than I do. Often, she is told she is 3dB better than me. I used to just brush it off until she started telling them that it is because she is twice as nice. Now she's just rubbing it in.

I even installed the FT-891 in her car and paired it with an ATAS-120 antenna so she can pull over anywhere and work her favorite POTA activators anytime she wants.

Karl Heinz and I went to Hamvention this past May 2023. Both of our wives stayed home due to various conflicts but they got together and had a POTA outing on their own while we were traveling back home from Ohio. Karl Heinz and I tried to work them but we just couldn't make it happen that day. Suzanne showed me the log when I got home and clearly, they did very well without us. I joked that hunters don't often get to work YLs and then it was the two of them, who many already know from the husband wife team ups. I'm sure they had to explain a few times where the OM were.

Sometimes we go out just to a park or my buddy's place which has a very low or zero noise floor and play radio just to be out someplace. New places and parks are a bonus since it gets us to places, we probably would not have visited.

Camping is when we are on the air the most. You may know that campgrounds have quiet hours usually from 10 PM to 7 AM which leaves plenty of time to talk on the radio. We like the quiet too and especially if our camping neighbors are quiet, we are going to cooperate and stay quiet too so we all can enjoy the peaceful outdoors. So naturally during quiet hours it's FT8 time. I'm not a computer person, so the digital modes are not something I gravitate toward, but they can be fun I have tried it.

I acquired all the equipment needed to go along with our back up radio. A G90 and Digirig mobile to connect to a laptop. Suzanne learned how to work WSJT-X and the radio and I helped where I could.

After getting home from the first camping trip using FT8 I noticed a new device showed with our radio/camping gear. A monitor to add on to the laptop. I'm told the laptop screen does not provide enough screen real estate for WSJT-X and Grid Tracker and JTsync. Maybe there is something else too, I don't know

I've suggested Morse Code to Suzanne but I get the look. You know what I'm talking about. The 'don't be an idiot' look. She's pretty happy with Phone and FT8.

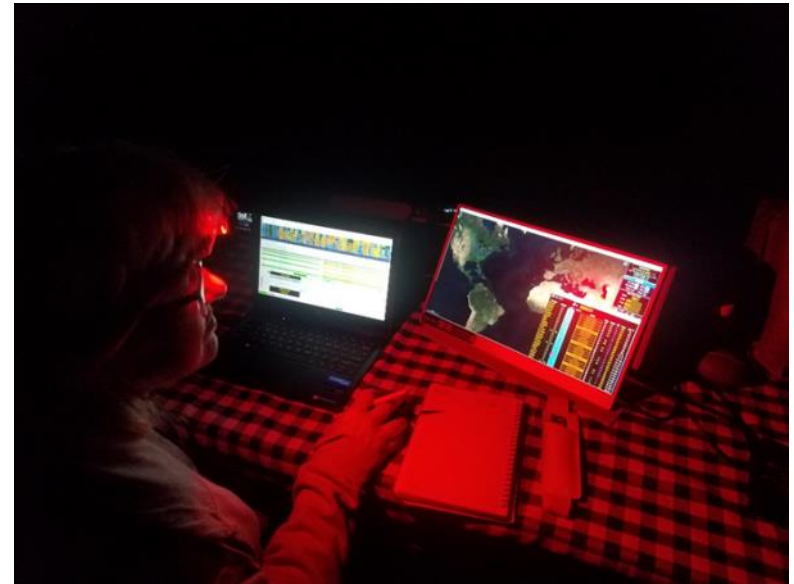
We finished up our camping season this year at Cranberry Lake State Campground. Five nights this trip. Suzanne mapped out a small POTA rove which got us to five new parks we had never been to before. We had great weather and had a good hike to the top of Bear Mountain right there at the campground where we sat on the ground and made many SSB Phone contacts and a few CW contacts for me.



Bear MTN near Cranberry Lake, NY

I think it was the last night after we had finished dinner and the clean-up I sat down by the fire while Suzanne was making a few more DX FT8 contacts. Another nice quiet evening in the woods. I usually close my eyes and listen to the fire and whatever else is out there. Tonight, I heard, "HEY. STAY IN YOUR LANE BRO!" Suzanne was having trouble with someone encroaching onto her frequency on FT8 and keeping her CQ from being heard very well, I guess. It was right then when I realized that I was responsible for that.

Both Suzanne and I are fairly new to ham radio. She in 2021 and me in 2020. We've both learned so much and found a few parts of the hobby we enjoy. I like to work any station and parks and summits with Phone and now slowly CW and a little digital to mix it up. Suzanne enjoys SSB Phone and FT8. And we both like getting out doors and making contacts from a picnic bench or sitting on the ground or from the car if the weather turns crappy.



Getting in those last few grids for the day

I asked my wife to join me in ham radio. Something she thought she would never enjoy or need to use. I am very happy that we both enjoy doing these things together.

Do you think I can get her to paint the fence?



Not much beats fireside radio

MARCH 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

We have all heard this term in many publications. Definition: Communications interoperability is the ability of emergency response agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications systems, exchanging voice and/or data with one another on demand, in real-time, when authorized. This is who we want to be! Our events include both hams and non-ham volunteers. Examples of this concept are:

1. For Tour de Cure, Command Post has maintained cell phone numbers for non-ham team members and used the cell network for communications. Rented commercial simplex radios have been used to communicate with non-ham volunteers.
2. For the Wilmot Breakaway Ride we used borrowed Monroe County P25 trunked radios to communicate with non-ham volunteers.
3. For the Fairport Liftbridge Regatta we used a cross band amateur repeater to link amateur communications at the dock with remote stations at the start line and finish lines. We also provided an interface through the command center with parking on FRS and the Sherriff's boat through listening watch on the Marine Band.

I urge you to search on the interoperability word and think about it's importance in our Ham Radio Service to the community. One opportunity for increasing our footprint is to add capability using push to talk over cellular (PTOC) or cell phone APPS. An example of this is the APP Zello. Zello is available from Google Play and Apple App Store. This APP runs on Cell Phones, computers, and Network Radios. GMRS is another community in this effort.

For the Tour de Cure, we are planning to use Zello as the backup channel. Please investigate this app on your cell phone.

2024 RARA Public Service Events			
Event	Location	Day	Date
Total Solar Eclipse	TBD	Monday	April 8, 2024
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua,	Saturday	June 8, 2024
ADK Outdoor Expo	Mendon Ponds Park	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
Mammoth March Upstate NY	Letchwork Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Light-	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

FEBRUARY MEETING: ROC, The Eclipse 2024 - JIM PORTER, K2NAX

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Now retired from NASA, Jim Porter is a Solar System Ambassador for NASA and makes frequent presentations in our area to schools and the public. For our February presentation Jim talked about the upcoming solar eclipse and, as a licensed radio amateur and fellow RARA member, he made special reference to how it might affect radio propagation.

Jim started with an interesting historical perspective on how eclipses were understood in the past before science was able to predict them and they just happened without warning. He explained how eclipses occur and the fact that a total eclipse is possible is pretty much a coincidence. It relies on the fact that although the sun is 400 times larger than the moon it is also 400 times further away so they both appear the same size to us and the moon can therefore totally obscure the sun.

Surprisingly, we learned that you would have to travel all the way to Cleveland, OH to find a place with a better chance of clear skies than Rochester. As a result, one of the consequences of the eclipse is sure to be traffic chaos on our streets and nearby expressways so road travel during or shortly after the eclipse is probably not a good idea!

Jim mentioned HamSci events tied around the eclipse which any of us can join if we wish to find out how the eclipse affects propagation.

The eclipse is on April 8th and in Rochester totality will be at 3.20pm. To observe an eclipse safely, certified eclipse glasses are essential, and these can be obtained from RMSC or other locations or online. However, Jim warned that it is important these have ISO 12312-2:2015E certification, so look for the ISO mark when purchasing.

If you missed the presentation or would just like to review some of the detailed slides, the entire slide deck is available on our website at [Presentation Slides for ROC The Eclipse 2024](#). Jim also made the point that the time of totality is definitely a social event so plan now where you are going to be at that time!



RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

March 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 K1USN Speed Test	2 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm ARRL Inter.DX Contest SSB Novice Rig Roundup Wakeup QRP Sprint Open Ukraine RTTY Contest
3 ARRL Inter.DX Contest SSB Novice Rig Roundup Open Ukraine RTTY Contest UBA DX Contest, CW NSARA Contest WAB 3.5MHz SARL Sim. Emer. 40M Contest	4 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint RSGB 80M Club Contest, Data	5 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt AGCW YL-CW Party	6 RaRa Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80m Contest	7 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB There are 7 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	8 K1USN Speed Test	9 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm There are 13 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.
10 There are 16 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	11 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	12 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	13 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p AWA John Rollins Contest There are 6 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	14 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB AWA John Rollins Contest BCC QSO Party NCCC FT4 Sprint QRP Foxhunt	15 K1USN Speed Test PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day C'test	16 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm AWA John Rollins Contest There are 10 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.
17 AWA John Rollins Contest There are 5 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	18 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB There are 5 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	19 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt IRTS 80M Evening Counties Contest	20 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest	21 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB There are 6 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	22 K1USN Speed Test	23 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm1 There are 4 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.
24 NA SSB QSO Party UBA 6M Spring Contest Maidenhead Mayhem Sprint	25 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	26 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt SKCC Sprint	27 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80m Contest	28 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 5:30pm ARES Monthly Meeting, county EOC, 6:00PM, see website.. VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB There are 5 Contests today, please see "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" for listings.	29 K1USN Speed Test Sasquatch Stomp	30 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
31 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB						

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountiemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountiemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Go to RDXA.COM for additional information



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us> We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Hello from KLARA! The Winter Field Days were fun and many contacts made.

The Groundhog Hamfest in Almond was awesome! The weather was perfect even though its held indoors, we had all tables filled with lots of exciting things to buy and sell. Door prizes were a hit, people enjoyed the coffee and cookies, and we had about 100 visitors there!

Six people took their test and all passed! So Congratulations to the new Hams and the ones who upgraded to General and Extra!

In April we have the Solar Eclipse. KLARA will be running a special event station held at the Helmer Nature Center in Irondequoit, NY. Stop in and say hi! We are anxious to share our experiences with all who want to get on the air and learn more.

Simplex Challenge is May 4, 2024 - This is for 2 meter and 6 meter. Watch the Klara website for more information. This is always a fun activity.

Our meetings are always the 2nd wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73,
Belinda KD2BPJ

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

**You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.**



**Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.**

**Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.**

**Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB**

**No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink [ka2ene-L #23426](#)**

**We can help to answer the question, "What radio
should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those
with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands,
giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research
each one to see which serves you best. Ask
questions on our email list. We're here to help!**

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

**Some are older models and some are newer models,
but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and
70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and
the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports
unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely
and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication.
These are good all-around radios no matter what
club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.**

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club and meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13th. There will be VE testing in March.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch.

All hams are invited to participate.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, WWW.K2RRA.ORG for any current information. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



AWA Educational Institute

2024 Hands-On Classes

Learn It, Build It, Fix It

Vacuum Tube AM Radio101	7 Saturdays Starting 4/6
Vacuum Tube Audio Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 4/7-4/9
Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier	7 Saturdays Starting 6/29
Vacuum Tube Radio101 Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 9/29-10/1
Solid State Audio Theory	3 Saturdays Starting 10/12
Test Equipment Familiarization	Saturday 11/9

To get more information visit: www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/

AWA SHARES

MICHAEL C. MIGLIACCIO, N3HLM, VICE PRESIDENT, AWA

The monthly *AWA Shares* is about to stage its thirtieth presenter. Thanks to the video on-line streaming of Zoom becoming so popular in the past few years, people are now able to learn more about the historical and technical universe of communications. Presented topics have ranged from accounts of the bygone era of electrically assisted communications to the specific technology details of practical designs. Every third Wednesday of the month Zoom presentations bring you the adventures of early communications pioneers into the privacy and convenience of your home. Audio kits, locating power line noise, NASA communications, early amateur radio pursuits, telegraphy, broadcast history and many other topics delivered to you, in the comfort of your special space where you can sit in your comfy clothes, sip a favorite beverage, enjoying your favorite snack. I encourage you to go to the AWA website and register for the free monthly *AWA Shares* presentations.

Link: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

20 Years Ago, March 2004

RARA Vice-President and Program Chairman Brad Armstrong W1YX, writing about this month's meeting brings what might be a new title for members in this area. Telling attendees about SKYWARN will be Judith Lavin N2TEZ, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Buffalo. So, what is SKYWARN all about? You will need to attend the meeting to learn all, but the topic will cover a national program established to save lives during severe weather emergencies. This program uses an expanding network of trained weather spotters who are capable of reporting very localized conditions, such as lightning strikes, that are important to severe weather forecasters. Judith will not only tell of the program, but her presentation will be such that attendees will be trained in how to be a SKYWARN weather spotter.

In a surprise move, it was reported in this issue that the FCC Okays the already pending Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proposal. This controversial proposal was a move to bring Broadband digital signals (TV, Internet, e-mail and more) into your homes using already established power lines. The then current BPL technology, unfortunately, has demonstrated a disturbing amount of interference in the commonly used HF radio frequencies in use today, including most Amateur Bands. A strong opposition by the ARRL resulted in having the FCC write in their approval that BPL test sites apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. More to follow.

Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, RARA's Public Relations Chairman, wrote to encourage members to get involved in getting the message out regarding what Amateur Radio is all about. He encouraged fellow hams to use any form of communications out there to dispel the idea that CB and Ham Radio are one in the same. Now, in 2024, I'm sorry, "CB" what's that?

Keith Freeberg wrote three columns in this issue, next is *Public Service*. First, know that so far RARA had two events scheduled in 2004, the *Tour de Cure* and later in the year the *Walk for Diabetes*. But I want to share with you something Keith dug out of the sponsor's (American Diabetes Association) Event Manual that said "all event communications shall be via amateur Radio if available." I'm guessing the manual writer had experience with well-produced Rochester events – Ed

Finally, Keith's third article was titled Explorer Post 621. Post 621 is a joint venture with Kodak and was an organized Electronics and Telecommunications group studying various topics within their scope and mission. A large percentage of the twenty students that were enrolled completed a curriculum that resulted in their achieving the equivalent of one high school course. That's great work and this writer wants to acknowledge the Post 621 Coaches who made that happen. They were Kevin Carey WB2QMY, Peter Fournia W2SKY, Jon Dickerson N2JAC, Dave Hassett (sk) K2SQI, Dave Holman KE3HF, Bill Hopkins

AA2YV, Bill Kraft WB2IHM, George Masny KA2GPJ and Greg Michels KC2GXV.

Writing for the Monroe County ARES group was Judy Stonehill N2KXS. Here she reported that in the last two months Monroe County did not have the need to activate the ARES group. Although that's a good thing, the need to stay ready for that call is important. To that end Judy made sure members were active in training and simulated exercises. Assisting in those activities was Greg Michels KC2GXV, who trained and reinforced traffic handling protocols. Further coordination with Monroe County officials included Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), the Incident Command System (ICS) and a briefing on services provide by the Rochester Chapter of the Red Cross.

Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG, told readers that RARA Licensing classes are starting February 16th and already have eighteen students signed up. Planning for success, the student's examination date is already scheduled for May 15th.

And finally, readers could just sit back and enjoy a story by Larry Wallnau W2EZY, who told in a most entertaining manner the details of a QSO that took place on .52 simplex. Answering a CQ from KC8YFO, Larry soon found the 8 station, Andy, was an aeronautical mobile operating 600 feet over Lake Ontario and north of Jamestown, New York. They chatted about similar experiences travelling in Northern NH and other areas noted for brutal WX conditions. QSB from a rapidly moving aircraft, even at 600 feet, finally ended the QSO but not the friendship. Thanks for sharing, Larry. Anyone else?

With regret it was reported that Judith Haingray N2XIM was reported a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy two 2 Meter FM handhelds, a 7 amp power supply and a 30 watt amplifier from Mark N2APD. "Need a Lawyer" was the ad for Sherwood (sk) W2KFU and Paul Snyder, Attorneys, doing business at 183 East Main Street, city.



the **RARA RAG**

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SKYWARN Spotter Training

Brad Armstrong W1YX

Well, the February general meeting program was very well received. I have had many folks tell me that they got a lot out of David Shields' visit. He gave us all the answers to those burning technical questions to do with power line quality. Those present even got to see demonstrations of the latest technology that David's team at RG&E uses to track down these issues. I will re-iterate that David has expressed a strong interest in building a better working relationship between hams in our community and RG&E. This is a great opportunity for us to join him in this effort. If you have any power line quality issues to report or inquire about, please contact me at the e-mail address on the RaRa homepage, and I'll relay your information report to him, or get David's contact information to you, whichever you prefer.

The presentation for our March general membership meeting will be by Judith Levan, N2TEZ, of the
CONTINUED SKYWARN PAGE 7



**RaRa
MEETING
MARCH 5, 2004
8:00 PM
HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.
SKYWARN
Spotter Training
Presented by
Judith Levan N2TEZ
National Weather Service**

FCC Okays BPL Proposal; ARRL Officials Express Disappointment

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 12, 2004--The FCC today agreed unanimously--with one partial dissent--to go forward with a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on the subject of Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted more than 5100 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in Part 15 rules governing emissions from unlicensed devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation attended the FCC open meeting in Washington, and League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed disappointment with the FCC's decision.

"I had hoped the FCC would have shown a greater depth of understanding of the issue," he said. Haynie also said he was dumfounded that FCC staff and some commissioners continued to tout BPL as a broadband and Internet solution for rural dwellers when "the economic reality of that possibility speaks for itself." Haynie said the FCC seemed to be echoing BPL industry publicity.

The FCC has not yet released the details of the NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. But ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the Commission's own presentation and the individual FCC members' comments demonstrated to him that the NPRM should have cut the permissible emission limits under Part 15.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the
CONTINUED BPL PAGE 3

RaRa RAG 1

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

40 Years Ago, March 1984

The March 2nd RARA meeting was called to order at the 40/8 Club on University Avenue. Our speaker for the evening was ARRL's Vice-Director Bud Hipsley K2KIR, speaking on current ARRL matters of interest to all attendees. Bud also spoke on his favorite subject, and one he is well versed in, that being amateur antennas and how to squeeze out the last dB's from your favorite wire.

RARA President Bill Thiel K2KGE, fulfilled one of his first presidential duty's by announcing the 1984 Nominating Committee as: Len Gessin (sk) WA2ZNC, Joe Hood K2YAH and Bruce Sanborn KB2WN. Also introduced that night was the new Associate Editor of the RARA Rag, being Don Taylor (sk) KB2BU. Don's position included collecting articles for the next issue, keeping deadlines where needed and working on developing a steady cadre' of contributing authors.

Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, wrote to inform members that 14 public service events have been booked for the 1984 calendar. Those committed include the STPR Road Rally, Scotch Bonnet Yacht Race, Camp Good Days, Walnut Hill Driving Competition, Ginna Evacuation Drill, Walnut Hill and many others. The STPR and Scotch Bonnet took local RARA volunteers' way out of town with STPR being in Pennsylvania and the much sought after assignment was aboard the Scotch Bonnet committee yacht headed across the lake into Canada.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) and the Rochester VHF Group announced their joint venture of a combined Ham Auction for March 16th. That date found Ed Gable K2MP and Ron Jakubowski K2RJ as auctioneers. There used to be four Ham Auctions annually but now, 40 years later, only two; RARA and RRRA. What do those two have in common all these years later? Only Ed K2MP, as auctioneer. Who remembers Cappy Capauldy K2UXF, as a much-loved RARA auctioneer and what food product did he unwittingly bring across the auction block? No prize, but I'll tell the story next month.

RARA Club historian and co-founder of the AWA, Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE, wrote an interesting tale of when Rochester was in the 8th Call district and our local calls began with W8. Ask why W8AAA was a real unhappy guy post-WW2.

With regret it was reported that Morgan Booth KA2IES, was reported a Silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a TR-7400A FM transceiver from Dwight Hill (sk) K2KWK, for \$230.00. Harvey's Ham (KB2LB) a ham equipment dealer in Caledonia, NY, featuring Ten-Tec and Dentron, was a long time advertiser.



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MARCH 2nd MEETING TO FEATURE ARRL VICE-DIRECTOR, K2KIR

Bud Hipsley, K2KIR, ARRL Atlantic Division Vice-Director and Program Chairman of the Rochester Hamfest will be the featured guest at our March 2nd RaRa meeting at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue, at the usual 8 p.m.

Besides an update on the latest ARRL happenings and some insight on the workings of the ARRL board of directors, Bud will present a program on antennas and some new thoughts on how to get the most out of them. Antenna-raising weather is just about here, and we all could use some tips on how to do it right the first time!

Of course there will be the usual committee and public service reports, the delicious refreshments and the fabulous awards. So don't miss this one!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

RaRa President Bill Thiel, K2KGE, has announced the formation of a nominating committee to choose a slate of officers and directors for the next club year. The appointees are:

Lenny Gessin, WA2ZNC

Joe Hood, K2YA

Bruce Sanborn, KB2WN

If you would like to recommend yourself or any other club member for nomination, contact Lenny, Joe or Bruce within the next few weeks. Their report will be given at the April meeting.

EASTERN AIRLINES BANS COMPUTERS

Eastern has banned the use of computers (even small ones) on board their passenger airplanes. Now aircraft makers - Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed - will test passenger-operated devices to determine if they do indeed interfere with complex and sensitive airborne avionics.

Thx W5YI REPORT

RRRA/VHF GROUP AUCTION MARCH 16 AT P&F ACADEMY

"A Night to Remember"

by Howie Davies, N2CUN

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association and the Rochester VHF Group will team together again for their annual auction on Friday evening, March 16 (Kodak Bonus Day!) at the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road. Set-up will start at 7 p.m., and the auction will start at 8 p.m. sharp.

Auctioneer will be Ed Gable, K2MP, and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ. As usual, 10 percent of the selling price will be paid to the clubs by the seller and split 50-50 between the clubs.

The VHF Group will be passing out the sweepstakes awards at this meeting also.

There has been a serious problem the last several auctions of the auction lasting way too long, often past midnight. In order to speed the auction along this year, the auctioneer along with the sponsoring clubs have decided there will be no Chinese bidding. All items must have a minimum bid, and if there are no bids, the item will be put aside for the seller. Of course, items may *not* be returned to the auction block with a lower minimum bid a second time.

We ask that all items be marked before you bring them to the auction with the following information:

- Description of item.
- Condition.
- Callsign/name of seller.
- Minimum bid.

Bring your goodies and your wallet!

SILENT KEY

Morgan D. Booth, KA2IES
January 24, 1984

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

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APRIL RAG DEADLINE

MARCH 15, 2024

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3235392566840338014>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

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